

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Creates the West Florida Republic Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 10 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 25:571 through 576, and to enact R.S. 36:209(AA), relative to creating the
4 West Florida Republic Commission; to provide for appointment of the commission;
5 to provide for the powers and duties of the commission; to provide for funding of the
6 commission; to provide a termination date for the commission; to establish the
7 commission within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; and to
8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Chapter 10 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
11 comprised of R.S. 25:571 through 576, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 CHAPTER 10. WEST FLORIDA REPUBLIC COMMISSION

13 §571. West Florida Republic Commission; purpose

14 The West Florida Republic Commission, hereafter referred to as the
15 "commission", is hereby created and established in the Department of Culture,
16 Recreation and Tourism. The commission shall plan and develop activities
17 appropriate to commemorate the bicentennial of the West Florida Revolt and the
18 creation of the West Florida Republic from which the Florida Parishes of Louisiana
19 derive their name and distinctive identity.

20 §572. Commission; appointments of members; officers; meetings; domicile

21 A.(1) The commission shall consist of twelve members, appointed as
22 follows:

1 (a) One member from each of the following parishes, appointed by the parish
2 governing authority from a list of three nominees submitted by the convention and
3 visitors bureau of each respective parish:

4 (i) St. Tammany Parish.

5 (ii) Washington Parish.

6 (iii) Tangipahoa Parish.

7 (iv) Livingston Parish.

8 (v) St. Helena Parish.

9 (vi) West Feliciana Parish.

10 (vii) East Feliciana Parish.

11 (viii) East Baton Rouge Parish.

12 (b) One member appointed by the director of the Center for Southeast
13 Louisiana Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University.

14 (c) The director of the Louisiana State Archives.

15 (d) One member employed by the office of tourism, Department of Culture,
16 Recreation and Tourism, appointed by the lieutenant governor.

17 (e) One member who resides in any one of the parishes identified in
18 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, appointed by the governor.

19 (2) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. A
20 vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as
21 the original appointment.

22 B. The members of the commission shall elect a chairman, vice chairman,
23 and other officers from among their number and may adopt such rules of conduct and
24 operation as deemed necessary for carrying out the business of the commission.

25 C. The commission may employ such staff as necessary for the efficient
26 operations of the business of the commission.

27 D. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but
28 they may be reimbursed on a vouchered basis for actual expenses incurred in the

1 performance of their duties to the extent that funds are made available for such
2 purpose.

3 E. The domicile of the commission shall be the Center for Southeast
4 Louisiana Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University in Tangipahoa Parish, though
5 the board may meet in any represented parish for the purpose of conducting business.

6 §573. Powers and duties

7 A. The commission shall:

8 (1) Plan and develop appropriate activities to commemorate the bicentennial
9 of the West Florida Revolt and the establishment of the West Florida Republic.

10 (2) Encourage private organizations and local governments to organize and
11 participate in bicentennial activities commemorating the unique history of the
12 Florida Parishes.

13 (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information
14 about bicentennial events and plans in the following parishes: Washington, St.
15 Tammany, Tangipahoa, St. Helena, Livingston, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, and
16 East Baton Rouge.

17 (4) Encourage the development of celebrations, commemorative days,
18 special events, and traveling exhibits related to the West Florida Revolt and
19 establishment of the West Florida Republic.

20 (5) Encourage literary and artistic endeavors related to the historic identity
21 of the Florida Parishes, as well as development of endeavors which promote tourism
22 related to the history and identity of the parishes.

23 (6) Seek cooperation, advice, and assistance from both private and public
24 agencies and organizations, including local governments, learned societies, academic
25 institutions, and historical, philanthropic, civic, and professional groups and
26 associations.

27 §574. Funding; donations and grants

28 The commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any private or public
29 funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or personal services from

1 individuals, corporations, and governments for such purposes, all in accordance with
2 R.S. 36:810 and this Chapter.

3 §575. Cooperation by other state entities

4 All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions of
5 the state and all political subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the commission
6 in carrying out the purposes of this Chapter.

7 §576. Termination of commission

8 The commission shall terminate on September 23, 2011.

9 Section 2. R.S. 36:209(AA) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §209. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
11 of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

12 * * *

13 AA. The West Florida Republic Commission (R.S. 25:571 through 576)
14 shall be placed within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism as
15 provided for agencies transferred in accordance with R.S. 36:801.1.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Edwards

HB No. 188

Abstract: Creates the West Florida Republic Commission for the purpose of commemorating the bicentennial of the West Florida Revolt and the creation of the West Florida Republic and educating the public about the history and identity of the Florida Parishes.

Proposed law creates the West Florida Republic Commission.

Proposed law provides that the commission is comprised of 12 members: eight members appointed from the represented parishes by the parish governing authorities; one member shall be the director of the La. State Archives; one member each shall be appointed by the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the director of the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at SLU.

Proposed law allows the board to adopt rules for its organization and daily business.

Proposed law provides that the members of the board shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses.

Proposed law provides that the domicile of the board is the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at SLU but that the board may meet in any represented parish for the purpose of conducting business.

Proposed law provides the following powers and duties for the commission:

- (1) Plan and develop activities to commemorate the bicentennial of the West Florida Revolt and the establishment of the West Florida Republic.
- (2) Encourage private organizations and local governments to organize and participate in bicentennial activities.
- (3) Collect and disseminate information about the bicentennial.
- (4) Encourage the development of celebrations, special events, and traveling exhibits related to the West Florida Revolt and the establishment of the West Florida Republic.
- (5) Encourage literary and artistic endeavors and endeavors which promote tourism related to the history and identity of the Florida Parishes.
- (6) Seek cooperation, advice, and assistance from other agencies and organizations, both private and public.

Proposed law provides that the commission may accept and dispose of private and public funds.

Proposed law provides that the state and its political subdivisions shall cooperate with the commission in carrying out its purpose.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall terminate on Sept. 23, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 25:571-576 and R.S. 36:209(AA))